



## Opening the Potential: Women Leading in Edmonton 2016/2017 Pilot Program for Women Interested in Municipal Politics

### PROGRAM GUIDE

#### About the Program

*Opening the Potential: Women Leading in Edmonton* is a City of Edmonton program designed to engage more women in municipal politics. Addressing the lack of women in municipal government is a priority for the City of Edmonton.

*Opening the Potential: Women Leading in Edmonton* originally operated for three (3) years using a model piloted in 2011; the original *Opening the Potential* program paired program participants with City Councillors. Following an evaluation of the program in 2015, the Office of the City Clerk committed to a “re-imagined pilot” in 2016/2017.

The overall goal of the “re-imagined” 2016/2017 *Opening the Potential: Women Leading in Edmonton Pilot Program* is to support and encourage more women to consider political participation either through municipal government or other areas of public life. *Opening the Potential: Women Leading in Edmonton* is to encourage more women to run for political office. The program will also provide opportunities for women to form relationships with leaders, build their networks, and obtain some of the skills and knowledge that will help to prepare them for political candidacy.

The “re-imagined pilot” program will offer 8 group sessions (approximately 50 participants, plus a facilitator and guest speakers to be confirmed) at City Hall from September, 2016 to April, 2017 and will include the following topics:

- Diversity, Inclusion and Representation
- Policy and Governance
- A Day in the Life of an Elected Official
- Public Engagement vs. Community Organizing
- Media
- Work/Life Balance
- “Campaigns 101”
- Opportunities to engage with City Councillors

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Who should apply to this program?

- ✓ Females or individuals of a gender minority (e.g., non-binary, gender non-conforming, transgender) who are at least 16 years of age
- ✓ Those who have an interest in public life/political involvement
- ✓ Those who are considering running for political office in the future
- ✓ Those who are prepared to do “homework” or mini-assignments between sessions (anticipated 3 to 6 hours per month)

The applicant should also note that sessions are planned to run from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at City Hall** on the following dates. More details will be provided in advance of the sessions; however, **participants must be able and willing to attend on all of the following dates**, with the exception of emergency situations:

- Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

If you are currently unsure of your ability to make the dates above, it is expected that you will be able to confirm your availability at the time of official enrollment in late August or early September. If you have concerns about committing to these dates for personal reasons (e.g., child care or other care-taking activities), please note any concerns or potential barriers in your application (a space will be provided for you to enter these details).

## This program may not be for you if...

- ✗ You are not interested in getting involved in advocacy or politics
- ✗ You are looking for general leadership development
- ✗ You are looking for one-on-one mentoring
- ✗ You are looking for a job/employment with the City of Edmonton
- ✗ You are not prepared to commit to additional “homework” outside of sessions

## Program Application

If you are interested in participating in the *Opening the Potential: Women Leading in Edmonton 2016/2017 Pilot Program* and meet the criteria as stated above (see ***Who should apply to this program?***), please complete the online application form at <https://www.banister.ab.ca/OTPAApplication>.

**The deadline to apply is August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

If you have any **questions or concerns about the program**, please contact Kaylin Betteridge, Women’s Initiative Coordinator, Community Initiatives and Coordination, Citizen Services, City of Edmonton, at [Kaylin.betteridge@edmonton.ca](mailto:Kaylin.betteridge@edmonton.ca), or by phone at (780) 496-4875.

